

Appl. No. 10/057,652
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): An ink jet recording medium comprising a substrate and a plurality of ink absorption layers provided thereon, wherein [[an]] the uppermost layer of the ink absorption layers contains inorganic pigment, a binder and thermoplastic particles having a glass transition point of 78 to 150°C, and the content by weight of the inorganic pigment being greater than that of the thermoplastic particles.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the medium is subjected to image recording employing pigment ink.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the medium is subjected to image recording and then subjected to heating treatment.

NO. 0342 P. 3
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Appl. No. 10/057,652
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Claim 4 (Currently Amended): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein at least one of the plural ink absorption layers ~~except for~~ other than the uppermost layer contains inorganic pigment.

Claim 5 (Original): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the inorganic pigment is silica.

Claim 6 (Original): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the inorganic pigment is alumina.

Claim 7 (Original): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the content ratio by weight of thermoplastic particles/inorganic pigment is from 45/55 to 10/90.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the solid content of the thermoplastic particles contained in the uppermost layer is from 0.5 to 15 g/m² of the medium.

Appl. No. 10/057,652
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2006

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the solid content of the uppermost layer is from 2 to 50 g/m² of the medium.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Original): The ink jet recording medium of claim 4, wherein the inorganic pigment is silica.

Claim 12 (Original): The ink jet recording medium of claim 4, wherein the inorganic pigment is alumina.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The ink jet recording medium of claim 4, wherein at least one of the plural ink absorption layers ~~except for~~ other than the uppermost layer contains inorganic pigment in an amount of not less than 50% by weight.

Claims 14-19 (Canceled).

Claim 20 (Withdrawn-Previously Presented): A method of manufacturing the ink jet recording medium according to claim 1,

Appl. No. 10/057,652
Reply to Office Action of July 13, 2006

wherein the method comprises the step of simultaneously coating the uppermost layer and the layer adjoining the uppermost layer on the substrate.

Claim 21 (Canceled).

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): The method of claim 20, wherein all of the plural ink absorption layers are simultaneously multi-layer coated.

Claims 23-26 (Canceled).

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the substrate has a base paper laminated with polyethylene film on both sides.

Claim 28 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the inorganic pigment is a gas phase method silica.

Appl. No. 10/057,652
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Claim 29 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein an average primary particle size of the inorganic pigment is from 4 to 50 nm.

Claim 30 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein an average particle size of the thermoplastic particles is from 0.1 to 5 μm .

Claim 31 (Canceled).

Claim 32 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein a solid content of the thermoplastic particles is from 1 to 7 g/m².

Claim 33 (Canceled).

Claim 34 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein a residual monomer content in the thermoplastic particles is not more than 1% by weight.

Claim 35 (Previously Presented): An ink jet recording medium of claim 1, wherein the binder is a polyvinyl alcohol.